

## House Resolution No. 167

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives are proud to recognize a momentous milestone in one of this state's German-American communities, the City of Freeburg, and the Parish of the Holy Family Catholic Church at Freeburg in Osage County; and

**Whereas**, the date May 30, 2004, marks the festive event of the Centennial Year of the Holy Family Catholic Parish, as well as the Centennial of the civil community of Freeburg, an event which will offer parishioners and community residents a special opportunity to demonstrate pride in their heritage; and

**Whereas**, the Parish of the Holy Family traces its roots to March 16, 1904, when the very first Mass was celebrated in the original, wooden frame church of the Holy Family founding pastor, by the Reverend Gerhard Fick, who served as pastor until his death in January 1934; and

**Whereas**, the Ursuline Nuns of the Roman Union conducted the parish school from 1904 to 1921, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Province of St. Louis, directed and taught in the Freeburg Public School from 1923 to 1952, the Freeburg District High School from 1926 through 1951, and the Holy Family Elementary School from 1952 to the present time; and

**Whereas**, the construction of the Rock Island Railroad in 1900 saw the engineering of the rail line in a landmark tunnel under the town of Freeburg, thus giving an impetus to the establishment of the community of Freeburg as a rail shipping point for the surrounding communities until the railroad's corporate conclusion in 1980; and

**Whereas**, the early German-born settlers from Westfalen Province of Germany settled the town site and the Maries River Valley farmsteads in the mid 1850s, while the other early German-born settlers from the Kingdom of Bavaria settled the Gasconade River valley farmsteads in the 1840s; and

**Whereas**, Holy Family's diverse group of parishioners have always been united by an unshakable faith in God and a strong community spirit; and

**Whereas**, a key event in the parish and the community was the construction of the present red brick, Romanesque-architecture, twin-steepled "Church of the Holy Family" in 1920-1921, which has been given the unique name "Cathedral of the Ozarks" because of its imposing steeples over the community and the north-south route of State Highway #63, which was paved in 1931:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty and robust congratulations to the Parish of the Holy Family at Freeburg upon the resplendent occasion of its One Hundredth Anniversary; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Parish of the Holy Family at Freeburg, Missouri.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Merrill M. Townley  
District No. 112

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of

Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 167, adopted January 22, 2004.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker